

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
10 June 2004 (10.06.2004)

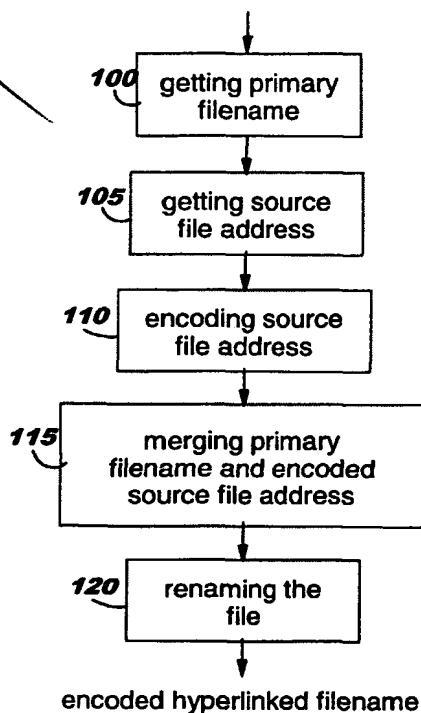
PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/049199 A2

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **G06F 17/30**
- (21) International Application Number:
PCT/EP2003/012055
- (22) International Filing Date: 2 October 2003 (02.10.2003)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
02368131.5 28 November 2002 (28.11.2002) EP
- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES CORPORATION** [US/US]; New Orchard Road, Armonk, NY 10504 (US).
- (71) Applicant (for MC only): **COMPAGNIE IBM FRANCE** [FR/FR]; Tour Descartes, 2 Avenue Gambetta, La Defense 5, F-92400 Courbevoie (FR).
- (72) Inventor; and
- (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): **INCERTIS, CARRO, Fernando** [ES/ES]; c/612 - No. 9, Monte-Canada, Paterna, E-46182 Valencia (ES).
- (74) Agent: **DE PENA, Alain**; Compagnie IBM France, Direction de la Propriété Intellectuelle, F-06610 La Gaude (FR).
- (81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Declaration under Rule 4.17:**
— of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only
- Published:**
— without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report

[Continued on next page]

(54) **Title:** METHOD AND SYSTEMS FOR HYPERLINKING FILES



(57) **Abstract:** According to the method of the invention, a set of target files is linked to a main file by encoding the target addresses or URLs of these target files into the primary filename of the main file. Separator characters are used to distinguish the primary filename of the main file and the encoded address of each linked target file. Linked target files may be of any kind including, source files of the main file, metadata, multimedia information and services. Since most file systems do not accept certain characters on valid filenames, addresses of linked target files are encoded so that any forbidden character is replaced by an associated authorized character. A lexicography table stores all pairs of forbidden and corresponding authorized characters. Likewise, since filenames length is generally limited to 256 characters, the encoding process may be optimized to reduce the length of the encoded addresses or URLs.